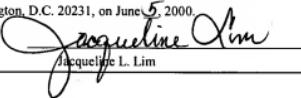


## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "FIRST CLASS MAIL"

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on June 5, 2000.

  
Jacqueline L. Lim

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In the application of:

Barry N. GARDINER et al.

Serial No.: 08/781,579

Filing Date: January 9, 1997

For: SUTURED STAPLE SURGICAL  
FASTENERS, INSTRUMENTS AND  
METHODS FOR MINIMALLY  
INVASIVE VASCULAR AND  
ENDOSCOPIC SURGERY

Examiner: L. Ngo

Group Art Unit: 3731

## AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Amendment in response to the Office Action dated February 3, 2000 in the above-referenced patent application:

- A verified Statement of Small Entity Status was previously submitted.
- A Petition for Extension of Time is enclosed. (1 months).
- No additional fee is required.
- Other enclosures: Return Receipt Postcard.

The fee (if any) has been calculated as follows:

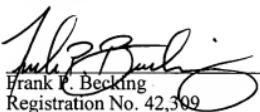
FOR	CLAIMS ON FILE AFTER THIS AMENDMENT MINUS HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	CALCULATIONS
TOTAL CLAIMS	53-66	0	x \$18.00	\$0.00
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	12-18	0	x \$78.00	\$0.00
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if not previously paid for and presented for the first time) *			+ \$260.00	\$0.00
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$0.00
Reduction by ½ for filing by small entity (Note 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).				\$0.00
			SUB TOTAL =	\$0.00
Petition for Extension of Time				\$55.00
			TOTAL =	\$55.00

- A check in the amount of \$55.00 is attached.
- Please charge \$0.00 to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 388402000900.
- The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this transmittal and associated documents, or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 388402000900. A duplicate copy of this transmittal is enclosed, for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 5, 2000

By:

  
Frank P. Becking  
Registration No. 42,309

Morrison & Foerster LLP  
755 Page Mill Road  
Palo Alto, California 94304-1018  
Telephone: (650) 813-5777  
Facsimile: (650) 494-0792